What is claimed is:

1.   A printing system comprising:

a plurality of image forming apparatuses that carry

5   out image formation on a sheet;

a margin storage device that stores margins in which no image is formed in the image formation carried out by each of said plurality of image forming apparatuses;

10   an optimum margin selecting device that selects an optimum margin having a maximum value from among the margins for each of said plurality of image forming apparatuses, stored by said margin storage device;

an image area calculating device that calculates an

15   effective image area found from the optimum margin selected by said optimum margin selecting device and a size of the sheet on which the image formation is to be carried out; and

an image data adjusting device that adjusts image

20   data for each of said plurality of image forming apparatuses such that an image to be formed based on the image data fits within the effective image area calculated by said image area calculating device.

2.   A printing system according to claim 1,

25   wherein said margin storage device stores respective margins at four ends of the sheet, and said optimum margin selecting device selects the optimum margin

having the maximum value for each of the four ends.

3. A printing system according to claim 1, wherein said margin storage device, said optimum margin selecting device, said image area calculating device,

5 and said image data adjusting device are provided in one of said plurality of image forming apparatuses.

4. A printing system according to claim 1, further comprising an image data server that distributes image data to said plurality of image forming

10 apparatuses, and wherein said margin storage device, said optimum margin selecting device, said image area calculating device, and said image data adjusting device are provided in said image data server.

5. A printing system according to claim 1,

15 comprising an input device that inputs the margins to be stored by said margin storage device through setting operations by a user.

6. A printing system according to claim 1, further comprising a collecting device that collects

20 margins from said plurality of image forming apparatuses, transmits the margins to said margin storage device to cause said margin storage device to store the margins.

7. A printing system according to claim 1, wherein said image data adjusting device reduces the

25 size of the image such that the image to be formed based on the image data fits within the effective image area.

8. A printing system according to claim 1,

wherein said image data adjusting device erases part of the image which is located outside the effective image area.

9. A printing system according to claim 1, wherein said image data adjusting device shifts part of the image which is located outside the effective image area into the effective image area.

10. A printing system according to claim 1, wherein said image data adjusting device adjusts the image data for each of said plurality of image forming apparatuses using one method selected by a user from among a plurality of image data adjusting methods for fitting the image within the effective image area calculated by said image area calculating device.

11. A printing system comprising:

a plurality of image forming apparatuses that carry out image formation on a sheet;

a margin storage device that stores margins in which no image is to be formed in the image formation carried out by each of said plurality of image forming apparatuses;

an optimum margin selecting device that selects an optimum margin having a maximum value from among the margins for each of said plurality of image forming apparatuses, stored by said margin storage device;

an image area calculating device that calculates an effective image area found from the optimum margin

selected by the optimum margin selecting device and a size of the sheet on which the image formation is to be carried out;

an out-of-area image determining device that

5 compares the effective image area calculated by said image area calculating device with an image to be subjected to the image formation carried out by each of said plurality of image forming apparatuses, and determines whether part of the image is located outside

10 the effective image area; and

a display device that displays a warning when said out-of-area image determining device determines that part of the image is located outside the effective image area.

15   12. A printing system according to claim 11, wherein said out-of-area image determining device is provided in one of said plurality of image forming apparatuses.

13. A printing system according to claim 11,

20 further comprising an image data server that distributes image data to said plurality of image forming apparatuses, and wherein said out-of-area image determining device is provided in said image data server.

14. A printing system according to claim 11,

25 further comprising a processing control device operable when said out-of-area image determining device determines that part of the image is located outside of

the effective image area, for providing control to continue or discontinue the image formation in accordance with an instruction from a user.

15. A printing system according to claim 11,

5 further comprising a host apparatus that instructs each of said plurality of image forming apparatuses to carry out distributed image formation, and wherein said out-of-area image determining device and said display device are provided in said host apparatus, said host apparatus

10 operating said out-of-area image determining device and said display device before instructing each of said plurality of image forming apparatuses to carry out the distributed image formation.

16. A printing system comprising:

15 a plurality of image forming apparatuses that are capable of carrying out distributed image formation according to an image forming job distributed to the plurality of image forming apparatuses;

an image area detecting device that detects a

20 minimum size among maximum sizes in which image formation can be carried out by respective ones of said plurality of image forming apparatuses, and regards an area of the detected minimum size as a common effective image area; and

25 an image data adjusting device that adjusts image data to be subjected to the distributed image formation carried out by each of said plurality of image forming

apparatuses such that an image to be formed based on the image data fits within the common effective image area detected by said image area detecting device.

17. A printing system according to claim 16, wherein said image data adjusting device reduces a size of the image such that the image to be formed based on the image data fits within the common effective image area.

18. A distributed image forming method applied to a printing system that includes a plurality of image forming apparatuses, and distributes an image forming job to the plurality of image forming apparatuses to cause the plurality of image forming apparatuses to carry out distributed image formation, comprising:

a storing step of storing margins in which no image is to be formed in the image formation carried out by each of the plurality of image forming apparatuses;

a selecting step of selecting an optimum margin having a maximum value from among the margins for each of the plurality of image forming apparatuses, stored in said storing step;

a calculating step of calculating an effective image area found from the optimum margin selected in said selecting step and a size of the sheet on which the image formation is to be carried out; and

an adjusting step of adjusting image data for each of said plurality of image forming apparatuses such that

an image to be formed based on the image data fits
within the effective image area calculated in said
calculating step.

19. A distributed image forming method applied to

5 a printing system that includes a plurality of image
forming apparatuses, and distributes an image forming
job to the plurality of image forming apparatuses to
cause the plurality of image forming apparatuses to
carry out distributed image formation, comprising:

10 a storing step of storing margins in which no image
is to be formed in the image formation carried out by
each of the plurality of image forming apparatuses;

a selecting step of selecting an optimum margin
having a maximum value from among the margins for each

15 of the plurality of image forming apparatuses, stored in
said storing step;

a calculating step of calculating an effective
image area found from the optimum margin selected in
said selecting step and a size of the sheet on which the

20 image formation is to be carried out;

a determining step of comparing the effective image
area calculated in said calculating step with an image
to be subjected to the image formation by each of the
plurality of image forming apparatuses, and determining

25 whether part of the image is located outside the
effective image area; and

a displaying step of displaying a warning when it

is determined in said determining step that part of the
image is located outside the effective image area.

20. A distributed image forming method applied to
a printing system that includes a plurality of image
5   forming apparatuses, and distributes an image forming
job to the image forming apparatuses to cause the
plurality of image forming apparatuses to carry out
distributed image formation, comprising:

an image area detecting step of detecting a minimum
10   size among maximum sizes in which the image formation is
can be carried out by respective ones of the plurality
of image forming apparatuses, and regarding an area of
the detected minimum size as a common effective image
area; and

15   an image data adjusting step of adjusting image
data to be subjected to the distributed image formation
carried out by each of the plurality of image forming
apparatuses such that an image to be formed based on the
image data fits within the common effective image area
20   detected in said image area detecting step.